

**Introduced by Senator Hertzberg**February 18, 2016

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An act to amend Section 13515.25 of the Penal Code, relating to firefighters.

## LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

SB 1221, as introduced, Hertzberg. Firefighters: interaction with mentally disabled persons.

Existing law requires the Commission on Peace Officer Standards and Training to establish a continuing education classroom training course related to law enforcement interaction with mentally disabled persons and to make the course available to law enforcement agencies in California.

This bill would authorize the commission to make the course available to firefighters and fire departments in California. The bill would delete an obsolete reporting requirement and make a conforming change.

Vote: majority. Appropriation: no. Fiscal committee: yes. State-mandated local program: no.

*The people of the State of California do enact as follows:*

- 1 SECTION 1. Section 13515.25 of the Penal Code is amended
- 2 to read:
- 3 13515.25. (a) ~~By July 1, 2006, the~~ The Commission on Peace
- 4 Officer Standards and Training shall establish and keep updated
- 5 a continuing education classroom training course relating to law
- 6 enforcement interaction with mentally disabled persons. The
- 7 training course shall be developed by the commission in
- 8 consultation with appropriate community, local, and state

1 organizations and agencies that have expertise in the area of mental  
2 illness and developmental disability, and with appropriate consumer  
3 and family advocate groups. In developing the course, the  
4 commission shall also examine existing courses certified by the  
5 commission that relate to mentally disabled persons. The  
6 commission shall make the course available to law enforcement  
7 agencies in ~~California~~. *California, and may make the course*  
8 *available to firefighters and fire departments in California.*

9 (b) The course described in subdivision (a) shall consist of  
10 classroom instruction and shall utilize interactive training methods  
11 to ensure that the training is as realistic as possible. The course  
12 shall include, at a minimum, core instruction in all of the following:

13 (1) The cause and nature of mental illnesses and developmental  
14 disabilities.

15 (2) How to identify indicators of mental disability and how to  
16 respond appropriately in a variety of common situations.

17 (3) Conflict resolution and de-escalation techniques for  
18 potentially dangerous situations involving mentally disabled  
19 persons.

20 (4) Appropriate language usage when interacting with mentally  
21 disabled persons.

22 (5) Alternatives to lethal force when interacting with potentially  
23 dangerous mentally disabled persons.

24 (6) Community and state resources available to serve mentally  
25 disabled persons and how these resources can be best utilized by  
26 law enforcement to benefit the mentally disabled community.

27 (7) The fact that a crime committed in whole or in part because  
28 of an actual or perceived disability of the victim is a hate crime  
29 punishable under Title 11.6 (commencing with Section 422.55)  
30 of Part 1.

31 ~~(c) The commission shall submit a report to the Legislature by~~  
32 ~~October 1, 2004, that shall include all of the following:~~

33 ~~(1) A description of the process by which the course was~~  
34 ~~established, including a list of the agencies and groups that were~~  
35 ~~consulted.~~

36 ~~(2) Information on the number of law enforcement agencies~~  
37 ~~that utilized, and the number of officers that attended, the course~~  
38 ~~or other courses certified by the commission relating to mentally~~  
39 ~~disabled persons from July 1, 2001, to July 1, 2003, inclusive.~~

1     ~~(3) Information on the number of law enforcement agencies~~  
2     ~~that utilized, and the number of officers that attended, courses~~  
3     ~~certified by the commission relating to mentally disabled persons~~  
4     ~~from July 1, 2000, to July 1, 2001, inclusive.~~

5     ~~(4) An analysis of the Police Crisis Intervention Training (CIT)~~  
6     ~~Program used by the San Francisco and San Jose Police~~  
7     ~~Departments, to assess the training used in these programs and~~  
8     ~~compare it with existing courses offered by the commission in~~  
9     ~~order to evaluate the adequacy of mental disability training~~  
10    ~~available to local law enforcement officers.~~

11    ~~(d)~~  
12    (c) The Legislature encourages law enforcement agencies to  
13    include the course created in this section, and any other course  
14    certified by the commission relating to mentally disabled persons,  
15    as part of their advanced officer training program.

16    ~~(e)~~  
17    (d) It is the intent of the Legislature to reevaluate, on the basis  
18    of its review of the report required in subdivision (e), *reevaluate*  
19    the extent to which law enforcement officers are receiving adequate  
20    training in how to interact with mentally disabled persons.